

CLAIMS

1. A wireless communication device comprising:
 - a transceiver operative to communicate in a push-to-talk mode;
 - a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and to recognize predetermined voice commands; and
 - said transceiver operative to transmit said speech signals in said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
2. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said transceiver is further operative to end transmission of said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
3. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said transceiver is further operative to stop transmission of said speech signals responsive to the expiration of a timer.
4. The wireless communication device of claim 1 further comprising a controller to control said transceiver.
5. The wireless communication device of claim 4 wherein said controller activates and deactivates said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
6. The wireless communication device of claim 4 wherein said controller activates and deactivates a listening mode for said speech processor responsive to menu commands input by a user.

7. The wireless communication device of claim 1 wherein said speech processor further includes a voice activity detector connected to said voice recognition engine to detect said speech signals.

8. The wireless communication device of claim 7 wherein said voice activity detector further detects periods of speech inactivity.

9. The wireless communication device of claim 8 wherein said transmitter transmits comfort noise responsive to said detected periods of speech inactivity.

10. The wireless communications device of claim 8 wherein said transceiver is further operative to resume transmission of said speech signals before the expiration of a speech inactivity timer.

11. The wireless communications device of claim 7 wherein said transceiver is further operative to resume transmission of said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

12. The wireless communication device of claim 7 wherein said speech processor further includes a speech encoder to encode said speech signals.

13. The wireless communication device of claim 12 further comprising memory to store representations of said predetermined voice commands, and wherein said voice recognition engine compares said speech signals to said representations of said predetermined voice commands.

14. A method of communicating speech signals as packet data from a wireless communications device comprising:

detecting speech signals spoken by a user of the wireless communications device;

recognizing predetermined voice commands spoken by the user of the wireless communications device; and

transmitting said speech signals in a push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

15. The method of claim 14 further comprising ending transmission of said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

16. The method of claim 14 further comprising activating said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

17. The method of claim 14 further comprising deactivating said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

18. The method of claim 14 further comprising deactivating said push-to-talk mode responsive to the expiration of a timer.

19. The method of claim 14 further comprising causing transmission of said speech signals responsive to periods of detected voice inactivity.

20. The method of claim 19 further comprising resuming transmission of said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

21. The method of claim 14 further comprising activating and deactivating a listening mode responsive to one or more menu commands input by the user.

22. A wireless communications system comprising:

- a base station; and

- a wireless communications device comprising:

- a transceiver operative to communicate in a push-to-talk mode;

- a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and to recognize predetermined voice commands input by a user;

- and

- said transceiver operative to transmit said speech signals in said push-to-talk mode responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

23. The wireless communications system of claim 22 wherein the wireless communications system comprises a packet-switched network.

24. The wireless communications system of claim 22 wherein the speech signals are transmitted as data packets.

25. A wireless communication device comprising:
- a transceiver to communicate over a wireless communications network;
 - a speech processor including a voice recognition engine to process speech signals and recognize predetermined voice commands;
 - a controller operatively connected to said transceiver and said speech processor to control said transceiver to transmit said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
26. The wireless communications device of claim 25 wherein said speech signals comprise a prerecorded message.
27. The wireless communications device of claim 26 further comprising memory to store said prerecorded message.
28. The wireless communications device of claim 26 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to activate a recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
29. The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to deactivate said recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
30. The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to pause said recording session responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

31. The wireless communications device of claim 28 wherein said controller further controls said speech processor to replay said prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.
32. The wireless communications device of claim 26 wherein said predetermined voice commands identify a recipient of said prerecorded message.
33. The wireless communications device of claim 32 wherein said recipient comprises an affinity group having one or more members.
34. The wireless communications device of claim 32 wherein said controller controls said transceiver to transmit said prerecorded message to said identified recipient.
35. The wireless communications device of claim 34 wherein said controller further controls said transceiver to end transmission of said prerecorded message to said identified recipient.

36. A method of communicating speech signals over a wireless communications device comprising:

detecting speech signals uttered by a user of the wireless communications device;

recognizing predetermined voice commands issued by the user of the wireless communications device; and

transmitting said speech signals responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

38. The method of claim 36 further comprising recording said speech signals to create a prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

40. The method of claim 37 further comprising saving said prerecorded message in memory responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

41. The method of claim 37 further comprising pausing said recording responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

42. The method of claim 37 further comprising replaying said prerecorded message responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.

43. The method of claim 37 further comprising identifying a recipient of said prerecorded message.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein said recipient comprises an affinity group having one or more members.

45. The method of claim 36 wherein transmitting said speech signals comprises transmitting said speech signals as packet data responsive to the detection of said predetermined voice commands.